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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Proposed collection, comment request

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c) (2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments on the proposed extension of the Labor Market Information (LMI) Cooperative Agreement application package. A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the Addresses section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the Addresses section of this notice on or before *[insert date 60 days after date of publication in the Federal Register]*.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Carol Rowan, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 4080, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20212. Written comments also may be transmitted by fax to 202-691-5111 (this is not a toll free number).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol Rowan, BLS Clearance Officer, at 202-691-7628 (this is not a toll free number). (See Addresses section.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The BLS enters into Cooperative Agreements with State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) annually to provide financial assistance to the SWAs for the production and operation of the following LMI statistical programs: Current Employment Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, and Mass Layoff Statistics. The Cooperative Agreement provides the basis for managing the administrative and financial aspects of these programs.

The existing collection of information allows Federal staff to negotiate the Cooperative Agreement with the SWAs and monitor their financial and programmatic performance and adherence to

administrative requirements imposed by common regulations implementing Office of OMB Circular A-102 and other grant related regulations. The information collected also is used for planning and budgeting at the Federal level and in meeting Federal reporting requirements.

The Cooperative Agreement application package being submitted for approval is representative of the package sent every year to State agencies. The work statements included in the Cooperative Agreement application also are representative of what is included in the whole LMI Cooperative Agreement package. The final Cooperative Agreement, including the work statements, will be submitted separately to the Office of Management and Budget for review of any minor year-to-year information collection burden changes they may contain.

II. Current Action

Office of Management and Budget clearance is being sought for an extension to the existing clearance for the LMI Cooperative Agreement package.

III. Desired Focus of Comments

The BLS is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Agency: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Title: Labor Market Information (LMI) Cooperative Agreement.

OMB Number: 1220-0079.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Governments.

Frequency: Monthly, quarterly, annually.

Information Collection	Respondents	Frequency	Responses	Time	Total Hours
Work Statements	54	1	54	1 - 2 hr.	54 - 108
BIF (LMI 1A, 1B)	54	1	54	1 - 6 hr.	54 - 324
Quarterly Automated Financial Reports	48	4	192	10 - 50 min.	32 - 160
Monthly Automated	48	8	384	5 - 25	32 - 160

Financial Reports				min.	
BLS Cooperative Statistics Financial Report (LMI 2A)	7	12	84	1 - 5 hr.	84 - 420
Quarterly Status Report (LMI 2B)	1 - 30	4	4 - 120	1 hr.	4 - 120
Budget Variance Request Form	1 - 54	1	1 - 54	5 - 25 min.	0 - 23
Total	1 - 54		773 - 942		260 - 1315

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): \$0.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): \$0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they also will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 9th day of November 2011.

Kimberley D. Hill

Chief, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics

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